

The California resolutions, in brief, provide that an American matriculating in a European school subsequent to the present academic year shall be called upon to procure proper examining board credentials before going abroad, must satisfactorily pursue a course of training equivalent to that demanded of California students, and when a medical degree has been obtained abroad, must secure a license to practice in the country in which his degree-granting school is located.

The resolution also provides that a foreigner who possesses a medical degree granted by a foreign institution, must give evidence that the school from which he was graduated maintains standards equivalent to those of the accepted schools of America. He must also pursue a fourth-year course in an American medical school, or, in lieu thereof, have a two years' internship credit in an approved hospital of the United States. It may be assumed that these provisions are in harmony with the viewpoints of the majority of physicians who are in active practice.

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Text of the California Board Resolutions.—The resolutions adopted by the California Board at its July 13 meeting, follow:

WHEREAS, An increasing number of medical students are leaving the United States for the purpose of studying medicine in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, The standards of medical education in other countries are not always equal to the high standard maintained by approved medical colleges in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It appears from the experience of the California Board of Medical Examiners that it is becoming increasingly difficult to verify the medical credentials of applicants to this Board who claim to have completed a full course of medical study in some foreign country; and

WHEREAS, The standard of preliminary, premedical and medical educational requirements exacted of graduates of medical colleges is specifically set forth in the Medical Practice Act of the State of California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That no American student matriculating in a foreign medical school subsequent to the academic year 1932-1933 will be admitted to a written examination for a license to practice under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act of the State of California, who, before commencing his course of medical study, does not secure from some state board of medical examiners in the United States, or other competent state authority in the United States, a certificate satisfactory to the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California showing that, prior to commencing the study of medicine, said applicant has completed at least a one-year course of college grade in the subjects of physics, chemistry and biology, as set forth in Section 9 of the California Medical Practice Act; and be it further

Resolved, That no student matriculating in a foreign medical school subsequent to the academic year 1932-1933 will be admitted to examination for a license to practice under the provisions of the California Medical Practice Act, who does not present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Medical Examiners of this State showing that he has fulfilled the premedical educational requirement heretofore mentioned and, in addition thereto, has graduated from a foreign medical school after completion of a medical course of at least four academic years, comprising no less than four terms of thirty-two weeks each, totaling four thousand hours, as required under Section 10 of the Medical Practice Act; and be it further

Resolved, That, in addition to the above mentioned premedical and medical education, each graduate of

a foreign medical college who applies for a license to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of California must present satisfactory evidence to the Board of Medical Examiners of this state that he has obtained a license to practice medicine in the country in which is located the medical school wherein he completed said course of medical instruction; and be it further

Resolved, That, in addition to the above requirements, any graduate of a foreign medical college, who presents satisfactory evidence to the California Board of Medical Examiners that he has fulfilled the above stated requirements of premedical and medical education, must, in addition to the above last-mentioned requirement, show satisfactory evidence that he has completed the fourth-year course in an approved medical school located in the United States or Canada, or, in lieu thereof, has completed a two-year internship in a hospital located in the United States and which said hospital is on the approved list compiled and/or published by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association; and be it further

Resolved, That graduates of approved medical colleges located in the Dominion of Canada shall be exempt from that portion of this resolution relating to the fourth-year study in an approved United States medical college, or, in lieu thereof, a two-year hospital internship.

THE SAN FERNANDO PLAN—A HEALTH CENTER CURATIVE CLINIC EXPERIMENT

"Health Centers" of Los Angeles County.—Several years ago, because of the great increase of population in Los Angeles County, and other factors, this county instituted, as a part of the Health Department, the first of its health centers, of which there are now about one dozen. These health centers were established in different portions of this geographically large county, and were situated either in unincorporated territory, or in cities and towns which, by yearly contract, had turned over their public health work to the county's Health Department. The grounds and buildings of some centers were entirely paid for with county tax funds, but in other places local communities or individuals made donations to the building funds.

It was originally planned that each health center should not only be a central office and distributing point of local public health service, but should also have in connection therewith (where needs were so indicated) a curative clinic manned by local physicians and giving gratuitous service to the indigent sick of the district. However, as time went on, misunderstandings arose in several of the health centers between the personnels of the preventive public health work and the curative clinics, culminating finally in the adoption by the Board of Supervisors of a new plan whereby the curative clinics housed in the health center buildings became part and parcel of the out-patient service of the Los Angeles County General Hospital; the health center curative clinic staffs being appointed in a manner similar to other County Hospital staffs, and supervised by the executives of that institution.

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Why the San Fernando Plan Came Into Being.—But even this much more desirable arrangement was found to be lacking in some important essen-

tials, and the executive medical board of the County Hospital and the Los Angeles County Medical Association saw fit to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, through the County Welfare Department (of which the County Hospital is a unit) that the curative clinic in the city of San Fernando be discontinued, and that the work of caring for the indigent sick of that community be done in the private offices of the physicians who had been serving gratuitously in that local curative clinic. There was attached the further proviso that, for each socially serviced indigent patient who in regular course was referred to such a physician's office and treated, the physician should receive a nominal stipend of fifty cents per patient treated, for use of his personal equipment and office facilities.

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A Preliminary Estimate of the Worth of the Plan.—The plan has been in operation for only about four months, and complicating factors (incident to charges for health center building upkeep and other items) have made it difficult to come to any final conclusions as to all the merits and the demerits of the new plan. It may be stated, however, that the members of the profession at San Fernando seemingly prefer the new method of procedure to the former clinic in the health center building, and that the plan also continues to have the approval and support of the administration of the Los Angeles County Hospital. At a meeting of the County Hospital executive medical board, held several days before the time of our writing, figures were submitted showing that, at the end of three or four months of the experiment under the new system of socially serviced indigent patients who receive treatment in private offices, the number treated was less than had been coming to the clinic in the health center building, and that the actual cost of the service rendered was something like \$200 less per month. Mention is made of this new method of procedure, because it is an innovation in this type of work. If the medical and surgical services can be given as efficiently and at less cost to the taxpayers, with preservation of the personal physician-patient relationship, with retention to patient of self-respect through abolition of the pauper complex, and with ever so modest but satisfactory stipends to the staff physicians for the utilization of their offices and equipment, then this new San Fernando plan may find for itself a place in the readjustment procedures now being tried out, in efforts to care for the indigent sick by methods better than those in vogue in the past.

NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE COMES TO CALIFORNIA

Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan of Pasadena Receives the 1933 Nobel Prize in Medicine.—When one of the Nobel Prizes comes to a State, an institution or an individual, it is a matter of considerable moment. Californians, therefore, are gratified that the 1933 Nobel Prize for medicine should have been bestowed upon Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, director of the William G. Kerckhoff

biological laboratories of the California Institute of Technology, to which institution he came from Columbia University in 1928. At the November, 1933, meeting of the Southern California Medical Association he was a guest speaker.

Dr. Robert A. Millikan, who is the director of the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, and who received the Nobel Prize in physics in 1923 for his own achievements in that field, in speaking of the honor to Doctor Morgan, gave an excellent estimate of the doctor's researches, when he said:

"The discoveries that are grouped around the ideas of chromosomes and genes—discoveries which enable us to connect hereditary qualities with actual minute objects observable in microscopes—represent probably as fundamental an advance in biology as has ever been made in history. It is altogether comparable with the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey or of the germ theory of disease by Pasteur. This discovery and the whole group of developments that have been associated with it have been made by a group of Americans, of which Thomas Hunt Morgan has been the universally recognized leader for the past twenty years."

Members of the California Medical Association, in common with other citizens of the State, extend to Doctor Morgan their congratulations at the great honor given to him, and wish for him long years of continued work and pleasure in the field in which, through his own original labors, he has been able to add so much to the world's scientific knowledge.

VIOLATION OF STATE NARCOTIC ACT DANGEROUS

Letters of Doctors Geistweit and Pinkham.—In an open letter printed in last month's (November) CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (page 357), Dr. W. H. Geistweit, Jr., of San Diego, detailed some of his observations concerning the lack of knowledge possessed by applicants who sought licenses to practice medicine and surgery in California, and who took the July 1933 examination of the California State Board of Medical Examiners. Doctor Geistweit's criticisms of our medical schools, in permitting young men to start out in practice without adequate knowledge of narcotic laws which, if violated, might seriously imperil the future of the transgressors, are, in our opinion, more than justified. Members of the California Medical Association may well take the time to read Examiner Geistweit's comments and to ponder thereon. The attention of the faculties of the four California medical schools is also directed thereto.

Comes now, to the editor, as the December CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is being prepared for press, another letter, also dealing with the Federal and State Narcotic Acts. With this difference, however, that the criticisms made are directed against physicians in active practice who, if arrested for violation of the State Narcotic Act, would be subjected not only to humiliation, but to the danger of losing much of their practice in the development of which they had given years of effort and service.